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Ministry of Forests and Range
Chief Forester's Office

HARVEST LEVEL MAINTAINED FOR KISPIOX TIMBER SUPPLY AREA

VICTORIA – The allowable annual cut for the Kispiox timber supply area will be maintained at 977,000 cubic metres, chief forester Jim Snetsinger announced today.

In making his determination, Snetsinger noted that there has been little or no harvesting activity in some parts of the Kispiox timber supply area. "By partitioning the cut, I want to ensure that the more accessible parts of the TSA aren't over harvested," said Snetsinger. "I'm directing that 177,000 cubic metres per year go to more remote areas, including north of Tommy Jack Pass and north of where the Sicintine and Skeena rivers join."

The allowable annual cut (AAC) determination will come into effect Jan. 1, 2008. The AAC accounts for management objectives for cultural heritage values, botanical forest products such as mushrooms, and the protection of wildlife habitat.

Also in his decision, Snetsinger has asked Ministry of Forests and Range staff to monitor harvesting performance in low-quality timber stands over the next five years. This information will help decide whether another partition, based on timber quality, needs to be added in future AAC determinations.

The Kispiox timber supply area covers about 1.22 million hectares in northwest British Columbia. It is administered by the Skeena Stikine Forest District and encompasses the communities of Hazelton, New Hazelton, Kitwanga, Cedarvale, Kispiox, Gitsegukla, Gitwangak and Gitanyow.

The chief forester's determination is an independent professional judgment based on information ranging from technical forestry reports and public input to the government's social and economic goals. The timber supply review accounts for environmental factors such as biodiversity (which includes old-growth forests), water quality, and scenic values, in addition to social and economic issues.

Under the timber supply review, the chief forester or deputy chief forester must determine how much wood can be harvested in each of the province's 37 timber supply areas and 33 tree farm licences at least once every five years. A new allowable annual cut may be determined earlier in response to abnormal situations or postponed for another five years if a harvest level is not expected to change significantly.

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Copies of the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination are available on the Ministry of Forests and Range website at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/ or from the Skeena Stikine Forest District office in Smithers or the Northern Interior Forest Region office in Prince George.

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